

ROTATELLER

by Ian Smith

Official Bulletin of The Rotary Club of Saskatoon
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Chartered #332 in the Rotary World

by Ian Smith

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Meeting April 26, 2010

by Ian Smith

President Bernie welcomed all and opened the meeting with O Canada led by Wayne McGillivray.

Our guests included 22 grade 10-12 students in town for Adventures in Technology (spanning the country from British Columbia to Ontario) and Rick Garlidzko (Jim Weber). All were warmly welcomed with a boisterous rendition of our Hello song to make sure that no other Clubs would out-do us for the remainder of the week! Dave mentioned that he was considering a solo rendition of the Hello song at the bowling alley but decided to wait for some backup. Good Job to all on the Hello song as this was one to remember. Dave and Merv can be quizzed later as to the names of all 22 and where they came from.

Thank you to all those who ably handled today's duties.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Dave Sundby. Dave was not wearing his badge again and indicated that he would be fining himself for that! We saw fines handed out to those who are involved in the Friendship exchange to Turkey, to those who were not wearing their Rotary pins, to those who were going to the District Conference but have not registered, and to those who have not yet filed their income tax returns with CRA - talk to your accountant about that as it might be a deduction!

We had happy dollars for the following:

Mark Gryba spoke of his son Justin who was back from Mexico from his on-site

wedding shoot. Brendan is off to Peru for 6 weeks on May 14 to volunteer at schools and orphanages. There will be a fundraiser Steak night at Mulberry's on May 4th (contact Mark if you want tickets). We heard that Yuka from Finland has put out his first CD with a song entitled "Land of Living Skies" as a tribute to his time in Saskatchewan. We had a thank-you from the Rotary Friendship exchange to Turkey and for the pot-luck supper. We heard that Bruce was to back from the South - welcome back. Arlene had a banner from a California Rotary Club as a token of goodwill - I am sure that my spelling is off but I believe it was Pasa Romas.

Next Meeting - May 3, 2010

by Ian Smith

The next regular meeting will be at the Delta Bessborough on Monday, May 3, 2010. Bill McKnight – Treaty Commissioner.

Duty Roster May 3, 2010

by Ian Smith

Duty Roster for Monday, May 3, 2010 at the Delta Bessborough:

Greeter - David Fairlie

Visitors & Guests - Arlene Julé

Cashier - Kirk Fong

Grace - Gary Rusu

Sergeant-at-Arms - Steve Wilson

Food Cards - Clive Cory

Please be at your posts no later than 11:45 p.m. **If you cannot fulfill your volunteer duties, please arrange for a fellow Rotarian to replace you.**

Program April 26, 2010

by Ian Smith

I apologize to all in advance for spelling mistakes!

Arlene spoke to us all about her recent visit to the village of Usonga in Tanzania. The funding for this project is through our Club and through a community organization in Humboldt. Arlene has always wanted to help the poor in Africa and that opportunity arose once she got out of politics. While this might sound like a lofty goal, Arlene indicated once you get there, it is easy as the conditions are dire.

Arlene works as a nurse and sees a lot of issues arising from the conditions of kids living in close quarters. She is working with Norman Dewer to help with the education and living conditions of a number of people. The budget for medicare is approximately \$9000 which is extremely low.

Arlene helps in her role as a Doulah - helping women with labour. Natural childbirth is the way that birthing happens. We heard that many women are afraid of the process, there are HIV concerns (long labours, breastfeeding issues, infections), many of the women are you and generally the fear is quite high and the women need comforting and Arlen provides that comfort.

Many women would come to the Village of Usonga, either by bike or by walking to the village, if their husbands will allow it. Many have to travel many miles. For those who travel on the roads, the potholes are worse than anything we can imagine in Saskatoon. For those with complications, it is a 2 hour drive on these roads to the nearest hospital. Arlene told us of a lady that she offered to assist in paying for the gas to get her to the hospital but the husband denied this assistance and off she went into the dark night on her bicycle.

Arlene told us of making that journey with a 14-year-old girl and how excruciating that journey was. We heard of a lady delivering in a ditch on the roadside because he husband would not let her go in to the hospital. Maternal health is obviously at risk and the death rate is 1 in 5 kids die before the age of 5.

We heard of the troubling practice of "witch doctors" that are seeking albino children because they believe these children have good luck ability from their body parts. These children are snatched and killed for their body parts to be cut off as trophies and good luck charms. A Mother Theresa orphanage has opened its doors to albino children to protect them from this practice.

Education is key and more education needs to be taking place over there. Arlene would like to go back with \$30,000 to assist with a new pharmacy and to educate on health, nutrition, sex education - all things that can lead to changing attitudes.

Arlene addressed questions about the language barrier, Rotary clubs in Tanzania and HIV passing from the mothers to the babies.

Arlene will be putting together a power-point presentation in the next short while as a picture is worth a thousand words. Thank you Arlene for a powerful and thought provoking presentation.

Announcements

by Ian Smith

Please be aware that the June 7th and June 14th meetings will be held at the Saskatoon Club.

Rotateller

Not getting your Rotateller sent directly to you? Check to see that your messages aren't being treated as Junk Mail! Otherwise, get in touch with Gordon Menuz or Joy Adams Bauer.

Future programs

The programs are set until the end of May. Your ideas for topics or speakers are welcome anytime. Contact Gary Rusu.

2009/2010 Club Executive

President - Bernie Sonntag
Past President - Wayne Berney
President-Elect - Wayne McGillivary
Treasurer - Joanne Fisher
Secretary - Avis Hardy

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